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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
8 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Asian-African Conference Developments

Although the conference secretariat had previously been informed that Ho Chi Minh would lead the Viet Minh delegation, it is now clear that Foreign Minister Pham Van Dong is being sent instead.

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The Communists have considerably stepped up their propaganda campaign concerning the conference. The main themes, however, remain the same--Asian solidarity, coexistence and US malevolence. This propaganda is tailored particularly for neutralist consumption. A new wrinkle, however, is Peiping's attempt to link the "five principles" of coexistence to the Formosa issue by asserting that they inherently imply the right to resist "aggressive acts" by others. The Viet Minh has struck a similar note by stating that "in the fight to strengthen peace, realize unification, and achieve independence, the Vietnamese people are always ready to join hands with Afro-Asian peoples to protest against all imperialist plots to enslave their peoples."

State Dept. review completed

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Meanwhile, the Communist-dominated "Conference to Relax International Tensions" in New Delhi has been something considerably less than sensational. The public has been apathetic, a third of the delegates failed to appear and a group of Indian congressmen have walked out of the conference--apparently at Nehru's instigation--because of the meeting's obvious Communist orientation. Nevertheless, all Orbit countries that had been invited (USSR, Communist China, North Korea, North Vietnam and Mongolia) had delegations on hand. The most important development thus far has been the speech by Kuo Mo-jo, leader of the Chinese Communist delegation. There was nothing startling about Kuo's speech, and it gave no clue to any surprises that may be sprung at Bandung. His heavy emphasis of Peiping's claim to Formosa suggests that Chou will also make the standard claims at the Afro-Asian gathering as well as adamantly reject any compromise solution.

No progress has been made regarding procedural matters or formulating an agenda. These problems presumably will be left for the conference itself to decide which might result in some confusion.

The signs still point to political considerations being the chief topics of discussion at Bandung, and that considerable heat will be generated.

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Although the conference sponsors have firmly rejected all requests to permit the attendance of observers, the Indonesian government has let it be known that it would facilitate the presence of "unofficial" representatives.

With regard to various delegations, the American embassy in Ankara reports that the Turkish delegation is strong and well-balanced. Deputy Premier Zorlu, its leader, has the full confidence of Premier Menderes and is "highly capable, thoroughly informed on economic as well as political subjects, and is a tenacious negotiator fully able to 'give as good as received.'"

Premier Ben Halim has withdrawn as leader of the Libyan delegation and has been replaced by Mahmud Muntasser, the pro-Western ambassador to London.

In the meantime, the Indonesians have been worrying about security aspects of the conference. They have called on the local anti-Communist Chinese to guarantee the personal safety of Chou En-lai, but were refused. It has also been rumored that Bandung will be sealed off after 10 April and that no one will be allowed to enter the city who is not a resident or in possession of documentation showing a connection with the conference.

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